



**SUMMER COURSES TO  
BE CONDUCTED ONLINE**

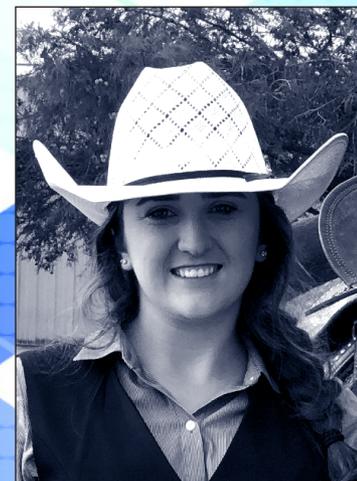
*Read the story on Page 6.*

**HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED  
DURING QUARANTINE**

*Read the story on Page 3.*

# ***SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE*** **COLLEGIAN**

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## **SSC RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING STUDENTS**

*Seminole State College recognized its Outstanding Students of the Year from each of the College's five divisions.*

**See story on Page 4. ▶**

## Submitting to The Collegian

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## Setting a Good Example



The namesake of Seminole State College's E.T. Dunlap Student Union is setting a good example by wearing a personal protective mask during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bronze bust of Dunlap is displayed in the Union which was built in 1972 and named in honor of the long-time Oklahoma Chancellor of Higher Education. Dunlap was

an educator and Oklahoma Legislator who served over 20 years as Chancellor. While the Seminole State College physical campus remains closed to the public, operations – including enrollment for the summer and fall terms – are continuing. For more information, call 405-382-9950 or click on the college's website at [www.sscok.edu](http://www.sscok.edu)



**Enrollment for summer  
and fall courses is  
available now.**

**Speak to your advisor today.**

# SSC Professor Helps Students Succeed During Quarantine

*Assistant Professor of Mathematics Emily Carpenter shares how she assisted students in the transition to distance learning.*



*Seminole State College Assistant Professor of Mathematics Emily Carpenter continues to teach from home during the COVID-19 quarantine.*

After Seminole State College shifted to online methods of instruction to ensure student and employee safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, Assistant Professor of Mathematics Emily Carpenter committed to helping her students make the transition. She spends mornings working from her home in Shawnee answering emails, making phone calls and using Zoom video conferencing software to meet with classes and students individually.

"I keep telling my students that they need to do what they need to do to be successful. When they have issues or concerns, I try to put myself in their place. I encourage them to make a workspace and to establish

a routine," Carpenter said.

Carpenter's routine involves getting her two children, Cayden, 12, and Quinn, 10, started on chores or schoolwork, and then assisting her SSC students any way she can. Her husband, Colby, is the part-owner of the Tecumseh Veterinary Clinic, where he specializes in tending to large animals.

She still meets with her face-to-face classes through Zoom during designated class times, records the sessions and then posts them to the online portal for the class for any student who was unable to view the session live.

In an effort to help students with children at home or students with

changes in their work schedule due to the pandemic, Carpenter gives her students a larger window of time to submit assignments and take tests.

"Many of my students were nervous about these changes. And I love seeing those students surprise themselves with their own tenacity and ability to learn and overcome these challenges," Carpenter said.

To bolster student engagement, Carpenter has been quick to share her own quarantine experiences with her students. She sends photos of family activities and asks her students to submit the same.

"I asked them to tell me about a blessing they've discovered during this time, to tell me about a chal-

lenge they're facing. It's important to stress that we're all in this together," Carpenter said.

Carpenter has also been quick to assist other instructors at the College, many of whom are teaching online for the first time in their careers. She hopes that instructors can work together during the quarantine to further refine the College's online course offerings.

"I think we'll be able to further define online learning at SSC, to improve the experience for students who want to learn remotely in the future," Carpenter said.

Carpenter received both her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and her master's degree in Teaching, Learning and Leadership with an option in Special Education from Oklahoma State University. She is a National Board-certified teacher with 13 years of K-12 teaching experience. She has worked at SSC full-time for four years and served the College as an adjunct for one year prior to that. Through her many years in education, she has seen the benefits to students when they overcome unexpected obstacles.

"For our students, I think they'll discover this is a personal development. When they persevere through this, there is only going to be personal growth and maturity," Carpenter said.

# SSC Recognizes Five Outstanding Students

*The College selects an outstanding student from each division annually and recognizes them at the Spring Banquet.*



Ronnie Trout, Business and Education

Seminole State College sophomore Ronnie Trout, of Okemah, was recently named the Outstanding Business and Education Student for the 2019-2020 academic year. Trout graduated from Okemah High School in 1996. He is studying business at SSC.

“SSC advisement was really awesome in helping me get the specific course times as well as my employer allowing me the flexibility to come to class,” Trout said.

Trout said the biggest challenge he had at the College was balancing his course work with his job.

“Finding the right schedule, trying to fit everything in and trying to be as successful as possible has been tough,” Trout said.

Trout credits the professors at SSC for encouraging him and keeping

The Seminole State Educational Foundation honors one student from each of the College’s five divisions at its annual Spring Recognition Banquet.

Due to restrictions on large gatherings in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s event has been postponed, but each student will be recognized at a later date.

him on track.

“Every professor I’ve had has been great. Even though it’s been 24 years since I graduated high school, the professors have helped me make the most of this opportunity,” Trout said.

Trout is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, which recognizes academic achievement at two-year colleges. He is quick to encourage others looking to pursue higher education.

In the fall, Trout plans to attend Southeastern Oklahoma State in Durant, where he will major in Business Management.

“No matter what challenges arise, stick with it. Don’t give up. SSC has a wonderful support staff that can help you get through challenges, make good use of resources, keep your head up and keep going,” Trout said.



Taryn Washburn, Social Sciences

Seminole State College sophomore Taryn Washburn, of Shawnee, was recently named the Outstanding Social Sciences student for the 2019-2020 academic year.

At SSC, Washburn has majored in Psychology. She is set to graduate in May.

One of the biggest challenges Washburn faced while attending the

College was managing work, alongside taking courses part-time.

“One of the hardest things has been experiencing burnout because I am part-time, so I’ve been here longer than most students,” Washburn said. “I have to remind myself about the reasons I chose to pursue a college degree and keep track of the progress I have made on my degree plan.”

Washburn credits several of her instructors for helping her overcome burnout and achieve her goals.

“I have formed so many great relationships with so many instructors on campus. I can honestly say I have yet to have an instructor I haven’t liked. A few standouts are Jeffrey Christiansen, Crystal Knowles, Jarrod Tollett, and Jason Cook because they all have undeniable passion for their subject matter, and their students,” Washburn said.

She has served as an officer in Phi Theta Kappa for three semesters, a national honor society that recognizes academic achievement at community colleges.

Washburn said that SSC was an ideal place to start her pursuit of higher education.

For Washburn, higher education has also proven to be a route for self-discovery and self-improvement.

“You’re investing in yourself and working to become a better version of yourself through education, experience, and relationships. Every class has something far greater to teach you than only the subject at hand,” she said.



*Connor Buchanan, Language Arts and Humanities*

Seminole State College sophomore Connor Buchanan, of Seminole, was recently named the Outstanding Language Arts and Humanities Student for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Buchanan graduated from Varnum High School. He is studying language arts at SSC.

“Being a full-time student, it’s always a challenge to keep up with all the work and campus activities,” Buchanan said. “I just roll with the punches and do the best I can.”

Buchanan credits the professors and staff at SSC for encouraging him and keeping him on track.

“The best part of attending SSC has been the people. Whether it’s the classmates, the teachers, or any kind of staff at the college, the people at SSC have been great,” Buchanan said.

His favorite instructor at the College is Associate Professor of English Kelli McBride.

“I’ve taken her every semester I’ve been here for at least one class,” Buchanan said.

Buchanan is a member of the President’s Leadership Class.

Upon graduating, he plans to pursue a degree in journalism at a 4-year university.



*Kimberly Cotter, STEM*

Seminole State College sophomore Kimberly Cotter, of Shawnee, was recently named the Outstanding Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Student for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Cotter is a graduate of Dale High School. She will graduate from SSC in May with an associate degree in Agriculture Science.

“I’m so glad I chose SSC,” Cotter said. “I’m getting to do all the things

I want. If you voice what you want to accomplish here, people will help you find a way to make it happen.”

Cotter was encouraged to compete as an independent in college rodeo earlier in the school year by Assistant Professor of Agriculture Wendy Rich.

She served on SSC’s first livestock judging team, she is an Ag ambassador, she is a member of the Aggie Club on campus, as well as a member in three honor societies: Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta and Nu Alpha Theta.

She shared her experiences at SSC with the College’s Board of Regents in the fall of 2019. President Lana Reynolds was so moved by her story that she asked Cotter to represent the College at Higher Ed Day at the State Capitol. Cotter was one of three students who addressed state leaders about the value of higher education.

In the fall, she intends to transfer to OSU and enroll in their animal science/pre-veterinary program. She hopes to become the fifth member of her family to complete the veterinary program in Stillwater, joining her mother, aunt and two cousins.



*Jaxon Cooper, Health Sciences*

Seminole State College sophomore Jaxon Cooper, of Prague, was recently named the Outstanding Health Sciences student for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Cooper is a graduate of Prague High School. At SSC, she is majoring in Applied Health Sciences with an emphasis on Medical Laboratory Technology.

Her greatest challenge at SSC has been the recent shift from face-to-face instruction to online coursework.

“I have to make myself a schedule and stick to it no matter what I have going on that day,” Cooper said.

Cooper’s favorite instructor is Assistant Professor of Life Sciences Susan Walker.

“I had her for two semesters for Biology and Microbiology. She always showed how much she loved what she was teaching, made class easy to understand and always went above and beyond to help me and my classmates,” Cooper said.

Cooper credits her success at SSC to the instructors that were invested in her, the friends in her classes and maintaining a routine.



**SSC IS PRESENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN LIGHT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.**

For all campus updates concerning COVID-19, visit [sscok.edu/covid19/covid.html](http://sscok.edu/covid19/covid.html).

## Summer Courses Set to Be Conducted Online



*To preserve student safety, Summer 2020 courses will be held online.*

Seminole State College has decided to extend the online delivery of courses through the summer term in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are optimistic that our society and our campus may be able to return to some normalcy in the coming months but understand that it is not prudent to delay decisions and planning for the summer term,” SSC President Lana Reynolds said.

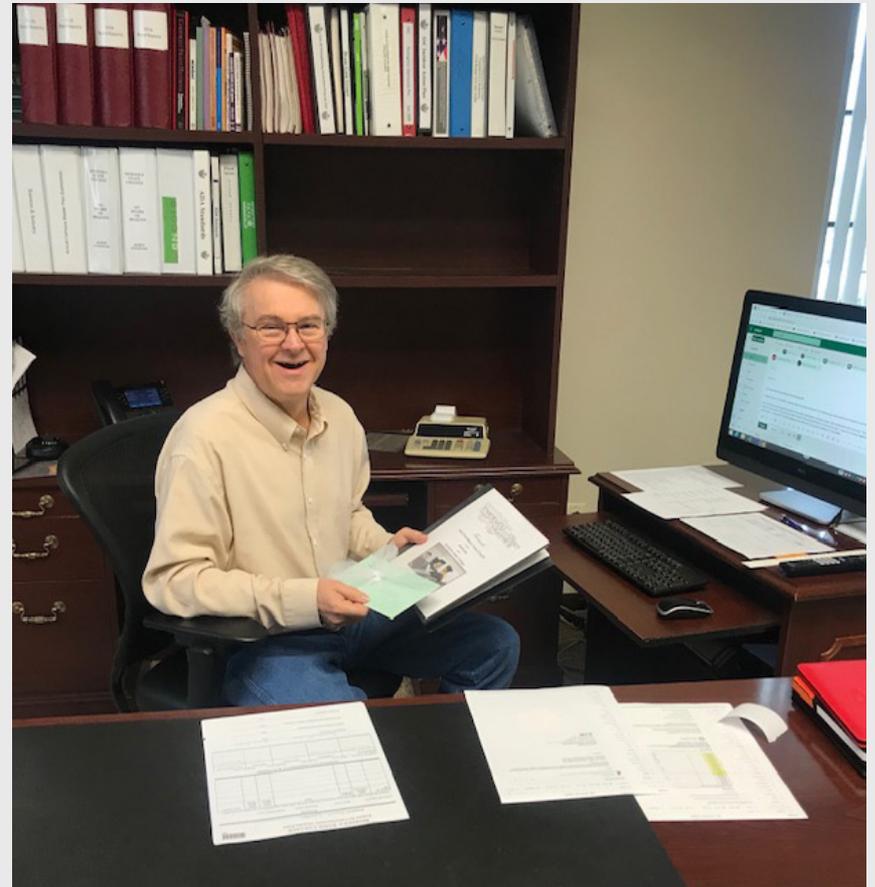
The summer term begins May 11. Enrollment is currently open for both summer and fall enrollment.

“While we are excited about the growth and development of our

online delivery of courses, we know that one of our biggest strengths at Seminole State College is our ability to connect through face-to-face interaction. We believe this time has allowed us all to develop creative and innovative ways of doing things,” President Reynolds said.

If you are interested in summer enrollment at SSC, you may fill out an online enrollment application at [sscok.edu](http://sscok.edu). For any questions or concerns, please contact the College’s admissions team at 405-382-9797 or [advising@sscok.edu](mailto:advising@sscok.edu).

## SSC Bids Farewell to Vice President for Fiscal Affairs



Seminole State College Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Tony Crouch started his final day at the College April 24 with farewell gifts – including a book of photos and good wishes from his colleagues and friends in the community. Crouch has accepted an administrative position at a four-year private college in Kansas. Crouch began working at SSC in March of 2018. His career spans more than 20 years in higher education.

“It has been a great experience for

me, and the comment book will be treasured. Your words are the most powerful gift I can receive,” Crouch said.

At their April Board Meeting, the SSC Regents named Human Resources Director Courtney Jones as Interim Vice President for Fiscal Affairs.

Since 2009, Jones has served as SSC’s Human Resources Director. Prior to that role, she held the position of GEAR Up Advisor for one year.

# SSC To Hold Virtual Commencement Ceremony

Seminole State College will hold its' 87th Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 8, for students completing coursework requirements for their degree programs. Due to the Campus' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional Commencement Exercises scheduled in the Raymond Harber Field House on the campus of Seminole State College have been cancelled. Instead, the graduation ceremony will be held virtually at the original time of 10:30 a.m. on the College's website, [sscock.edu](http://sscock.edu).

To recognize students slated to receive their diplomas, a graduation video will be presented to the public. The exercise will include

opening comments from SSC President Lana Reynolds, followed by the presentation of graduate names – including academic recognitions and photos, if submitted. To conclude the presentation, messages of congratulations from the faculty will be delivered by Division Chairs Dr. Steve Bolin, Social Sciences; Jason Cook, STEM; Brad Schatzel, Business and Education; Jessica Isaacs, Language Arts and Humanities; and Dr. Noble Jobe, Nursing and Health Sciences.

Students who graduated in the fall of 2019 and expected graduates for the spring and summer 2020 semesters will be recognized during the ceremony.



*Seminole State College sophomore Grace Warren, of Shawnee, is one of the many graduates that will be recognized at a virtual commencement ceremony on May 8.*

## Nursing Program Receives Continued Accreditation



*Seminole State College nursing students pass out flowers during the fall 2019 pinning ceremony. The nursing program recently received continued accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.*

The Seminole State College Nursing Program was recently granted continuing accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The Board of Commissioners granted this accreditation to the College's associate nursing program and scheduled the next evaluation visit for Fall of 2027.

The program went through the accreditation process last fall, which culminated in an on-site visit by ACEN in October of 2019.

SSC President Lana Reynolds said the news of the accreditation was a positive reinforcement of the great training being provided by the College's Nursing Program.

"Our program has a reputation of being rigorous and producing well-qualified professionals for the nursing field. Having an outside accrediting body compliment the great job being done in this department is a wonderful reaffirmation of their work," she said.

Valarie Watts was serving as the Nursing Program Director and Health Sciences Chair during the accreditation site visit. She received active duty orders from the Army Reserves for a 12-month deployment, which began in January. Linda Brown, through a partnership with SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Shawnee, is presently serving as the Interim Nursing Program Director.

Assistant Professor of Life Sciences Dr. Noble Jobe is serving as Chair of the Health Sciences division.

"We want to applaud everyone associated with our Nursing and Health Sciences Division for their work in producing health care providers. Many of these heroes currently working in hospitals, clinics, labs and nursing homes received their training at Seminole State College. We are so proud of the work that they are doing. We are so thankful for them and greatly appreciate their service," Reynolds said.



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## College Offers Relief Funds to Students Through CARES Act

Seminole State College has received an allocation of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund that is being provided by the U.S. Department of Education through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to assist students in the amount of \$580,000.

The funds will be distributed to students based on specific guidance from the U.S. Department of Education as well as procedures established by SSC. The money is intended to provide help to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19.

Students must be eligible for Title IV federal aid to qualify for this program but do not have to be current recipients of those grant funds.

Students were contacted about steps to take to receive funding, based on their credit hour enrollment in Spring 2020 on Friday

morning, May 1. Within two hours, more than 100 students had applied to receive aid. The College projects that qualifying students who were taking 15 credit hours will receive \$675.

There will also be approximately \$50,000 of that money awarded on the basis of need. A separate application will be released to students looking to receive these need-based awards. A Campus CARES Committee, comprised of Leslie Sewell, Assistant Athletic Director and SGA and Food Pantry Sponsor; Christal Knowles, Social Sciences Associate Professor and SSC HELP Center; Lindsay Hernandez, Office Manager, President's Office; Janna Wilson-Byrd, Director of Student Support Services Grant; Marc Hunter, Director of Information Technology; John Bolander, Assistant Professor of Language Arts; and Kelly Hankal, Director of Medical Laboratory

Technology, will be evaluating applications for those funds.

"The distribution of this money is a complex process that involves multiple entities and departments, including the federal government. We are continually and cautiously making preparations to get this money into the hands of our students as expeditiously as possible. We are very grateful for these funds and hope this will provide some relief for our students during this time," SSC President Lana Reynolds said in memo sent to campus on April 30.

The College's Financial Aid team will host webinars on Monday, May 4, at 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. to answer any questions students may have. The link to join these webinars can be found on the SSC website, [ss-cok.edu](http://ss-cok.edu), on the COVID-19 information page.